(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Metro service of Doordarshan is being extended initially to State Capitals and major cities in the country in a phased manner depending on availability of resources and inter-se priorities. There is, no approved scheme at present, to set up a TV Transmitter at Alleppey in Kerala for relay of Metro Channel service.

[Translation]

Civil Aviation Network

5377. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes proposed for the development of Civil Aviation Network in the country during 1996-97, State-wise; and

(b) the amount earmarked therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The Schemes for the development of Civil Aviation are not formulated State-wise but are based on overall national priorities.

An amount of Rs. 4139 crores has been earmarked for various schemes of the Civil Aviation sector in the Annual Plan 1996-97.

[English]

Women Workers in Hazardous Industries

5378. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any census on the number of women workers in the hazardous industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect such women from their employees ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to the information received from the Office of the Registrar General of India, no separate data on the number of women workers in the hazardous industry is maintained.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Factories Act, 1948 stipulates minimum standards for safety, health and welfare of workers while at work and lays down measures to be taken to ensure their protection. Section 66 of the Act provides restrictions on the employment of women, according to which no woman shall be required or allowed to work in any factory except between the hours of 6 AM and 7 PM.

Non-Functioning of Telephones in Rural Areas

5379. SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the telephone communication system is not upto the mark in the rural areas since most of the telephones provided do not function properly; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve telephone services in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The telecommunication system in rural areas are working satisfactorily. However, some complaints have been received regarding improper functioning of village public Telephones.

(b) Instructions and Guidelines have been issued for taking immediate action to improve the performance of Village Public Telephones.

Maintenance/Repairs of Air India Aircrafts

5380. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has sent their aircrafts out of the country for repair/maintenance during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total foreign exchange spent in this regard during the above period, aircraft-wise;

(d) whether executives and other employees had also gone abroad in this connection;

(e) if so, the details alongwith the facilities provided to them; and

(f) the amount of foreign exchange incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Eight aircrafts were sent abroad for major checks during 1993-94 to 1995-96. Details of the expenditure incurred are given in the Statement attached.

(d) to (f) Representatives from the concerned departments of Air India were deputed to monitor and assist in the work of the repair agencies. The expenditure towards hotel accommodation and conveyance in respect of these representatives was borne by the repair agencies.